

## Message Text

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16

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

FEA-01 /110 W

----- 068974

R 310335Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7175

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

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PASS AGRICULTURE FOR ANDERSON

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, AS

SUBJ: MEAT TRADE: AUSTRALIAN-CANADIAN NEGOTIATIONS STILL IN PROGRESS

REF: STATE 302886; STATE 303837

1. GOC INITIATED TALKS WITH AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND SOMETIME AGO CONCERNING A POSSIBLE ARRANGEMENT FOR LIMITING MEAT SHIPMENTS TO CANADA IN 1976, BUT NO AGREEMENT WAS REACHED. WHEN IT BECAME OBVIOUS THAT THERE WAS NOT SUFFICIENT TIME LEFT IN 1975 TO REACH AN AGREEMENT, CANADA ADVISED AUSTRALIA ON DECEMBER 30 THAT IT WOULD CANCEL ITS PRESENT QUOTA ARRANGEMENT AND GO TO OPEN IMPORT LICENSING FROM JANUARY 1 UNTIL SUCH TIME AS A SATISFACTORY

AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED. GOA OFFICIALS SAID THEY WOULD PRESS

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FOR CONTINUATION OF OPEN IMPORT LICENSING, BUT CONCEDED THAT

CANADA WOULD PROBABLY INSIST ON SOME TYPE OF A VOLUNTARY, PRICE-QUANTITY AGREEMENT. AUSTRALIA EXPECTS TO SHIP CANADA ABOUT 25,000 TO 30,000 MT OF BEEF IN 1976, OR ABOUT THE SAME LEVEL AS IN THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS.

2. AMB IS HOPING FOR AN EARLY SETTLEMENT OF BOTH THE U.S. AND CANADIAN AGREEMENTS IN ORDER TO COMPLETE SHIPPING PLANS FOR 1976. CANADA WAS PUT BACK INTO THE EXPORT DIVERSIFICATION SCHEME IN THE CLOSING WEEKS OF 1975 WHICH PERMITTED EXPORTERS TO AGAIN EARN CREDITS FOR THE U.S. MARKET ON CANADIAN SHIPMENTS. THE DIVERSIFICATION FACTOR REMAINS AT 1 TO 1-1/2, THAT IS, FOR EVERY 1 TON SHIPPED TO OTHER MARKETS, EXPORTERS NOW EARN CREDITS TO SHIP 1-1/2 TONS TO THE U.S.

COMMENT: AT THIS STAGE, GOA OFFICIALS SAY THEY ARE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THE IMPACT OF THE LEVEL OF CANADIAN EXPORTS TO THE U.S. IN 1976 UNDER THE NEW U.S./CANADIAN AGREEMENT THAN THEY ARE ABOUT AN AUSTRALIAN/CANADIAN AGREEMENT. GOA OFFICIALS APPRECIATED RECEIVING THE EARLY ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 1976 U.S. MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM AND ASSURED US THAT THEY WOULD DO ALL THEY COULD TO EXPEDITE A PROMPT SETTLEMENT. THE AMB'S LATEST ASSESSMENT OF 1975 SHIPMENTS TO U.S. IS THAT THERE WILL BE ABOUT 32 MILLION POUNDS IN STORE FOR CARRY-IN INTO 1976. EMBASSY URGES DEPARTMENT TO PRESS FOR AN EARLY CONCLUSION OF THE VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT PROGRAM IN ORDER TO AVOID THE PROBLEMS THAT AROSE IN 1975.

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